

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 01495 111343Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111344Z 124895 /53

O 111229Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9851

CONFIDENTIAL BELGRADE 1495

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: CA ET YO (BELACHEW JAMANEH)
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR AND DEPENDENTS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2338, (B) BRUSSELS 2169 (NOTAL),
(C) BELGRADE 1312 (NOTAL)

1. NOTE : THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM EXDIS REFTEL C CONCERNING ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGRADE, BELACHEW JEMANEH'S REQUEST FOR CANADIAN ASYLUM. CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS REQUESTED THAT ALL INFORMATION BE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. ABSOLUTELY NO MENTION SHOULD BE MADE TO MRS. JEMANEH OF THE FOLLOWING OR OF EMBASSY BELGRADE'S INTEREST IN THE CASE.

2. BEGIN EXCERPT. CANADIAN COUNS. IN BELGRADE INFORMED US MARCH 3, THAT ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR, COL. BELACHEW JEMANEH HAS REQUESTED ASYLUM IN CANADA. REQUEST APPARENTLY MADE DURING ETHIOPIAN PMAC VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA FEB 24-28. ACCORDING TO CANADIAN COUNS., ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAD REQUESTED AMBASSADOR'S IMMEDIATE RETURN TO ADDIS OSTENSIBLY FOR CONSULTATION. ETHIOPIAN AMB DECLINED TO RETURN FOR REASONS UNKNOWN BUT PRESUMABLY OUT OF FEAR FOR PERSONAL SAFETY. ACCORDING TO CANADIAN COUNS., GOY AWARE THAT JEMANEH NO LONGER ENJOYS AMBASSADORIAL STANDING.

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3. CANADIAN COUNS. STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT NOW CONSIDERING JEMANEH'S REQUEST, BUT IN VIEW OF CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE GOC IS TROUBLED BY FACT THAT AMBASSADOR'S CAREER INCLUDED A STINT AS ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER. WHILE EXTENT OF HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IF ANY IN BLOODLETTING IN THAT COUNTRY UNKNOWN TO CANADIANS HERE THEY BELIEVE IT WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN OTTAWA'S FINAL DECISION. THE CANADIANS HERE APPEAR UNCOMFORTABLE

WITH ETHIOPIAN'S REQUEST AND HAVE BEEN MAKING DISCREET INQUIRIES
WITH CERTAIN WESTERN EMBASSIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHETHER
BELACHEW JEMANEH MAY BE SEEKING ASYLUM IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN
CANADA, HIS AVOWED INTENT TO RESIDE PERMANENTLY IN CANADA,
A PREREQUISITE FOR THEIR GRANTING ASYLUM, WOULD BE CAST IN DOUBT.

4. CANADIANS HERE, APART FROM INQUIRY ABOUT SUBJECT'S POSSIBLY
SEEKING ASYLUM IN U.S., HAVE MADE NO REQUEST OF EMBASSY BELGRADE
IN THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, MRS. BELACHEW JEMANEH REQUESTED OF
WIFE OF USIS FIRST SECRETARY PERMISSION TO STORE TRUNK WITH SOME
PERSONAL EFFECTS IN AMERICAN'S HOME WHILE SHE IN WESTERN EUROPE.
TRUNK NEVER DELIVERED. END EXCERPT.

5. IT APPEARS THAT BRUSSELS APPLICANT IS THE WIFE OF THE
ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR HERE. WE WISH REPEAT STRICTURES ON DIVULGING
ANY OF FOREGOING TO MRS. JEMANEH. YORK

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Message Attributes

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